The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising

a catheter shaft including a proximal end and a distal end ~~having preferably~~ secured ~~there~~ to a balloon, and

a luer fitting[[,]] ~~preferably a luer fitting~~[[,]] arranged at the proximal end of the catheter shaft,

the proximal end of the catheter shaft being provided with a bending section, the bending section having a flexibility greater than that of the section of the catheter shaft joining the proximal end, the bending section formed as a plurality of offset cuts cut into the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein

the ~~bending section has a~~ offset cuts are spiral cuts into the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

4. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein

the ~~bending section is formed by a plurality of~~ offset cuts extend in a direction generally parallel to one another and are generally perpendicular to a lengthwise direction of the catheter shaft.

5. (Original) The catheter according to claim 4, wherein the bending section is provided with a seal.

6. (Original) The catheter according to claim 3, wherein the bending section is provided with a seal.

7. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim [[3]] 6, wherein the seal is designed as a sleeve or tube which is fastened [[,]] ~~preferably by an adhesive~~ [[,]] to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

8. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim [[4]] 5, wherein the seal is designed as a sleeve or tube which is fastened [[,]] ~~preferably by an adhesive~~ [[,]] to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

9. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the bending section is formed as a soft-annealed material section of the catheter shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim 9, wherein the soft-annealed section is surrounded by [[a]] the ~~spiral spring~~ offset cuts.

11. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein

the bending section is formed by a transition member of the fitting which consists of a flexible plastic material.

12. (Original) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein

the transition member has an undercut which is engaged by a complementary holding member of the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

13. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein

the bending section comprises a plurality of balls mounted on the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The catheter according to claim 3, wherein

the seal is fastened by an adhesive to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

16. (New) The catheter according to claim 4, wherein

the seal is fastened by an adhesive to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

17. (New) A catheter comprising

a catheter shaft including a proximal end and a distal end secured to a balloon, and

a luer fitting arranged at the proximal end of the catheter shaft,

the proximal end of the catheter shaft being provided with a bending section, the bending section having a flexibility greater than that of the section of the catheter shaft joining the proximal end, the bending section formed as a spiral cut into the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

18. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein

the bending section is provided with a seal.

19. (New) The catheter according to claim 18, wherein

the seal is designed as a sleeve or tube which is fastened by an adhesive to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

20. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein

the bending section is formed as a soft-annealed material section of the catheter shaft.

21. (New) A catheter comprising

a catheter shaft including a proximal end and a distal end secured to a balloon, and

a luer fitting arranged at the proximal end of the catheter shaft,

the proximal end of the catheter shaft being provided with a bending section, the bending section having a flexibility greater than that of the section of the catheter shaft joining the proximal end, the bending section formed as a plurality of offset cuts cut into the proximal end of the catheter shaft, the offset cuts extending in a direction generally parallel to one another and are generally perpendicular to a lengthwise direction of the catheter shaft.